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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Plant Militia and Plant Guard at the Ministry of Agriculture	DATE DISTR.	20 April 1955	
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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC						
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REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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Plant Militia (People's Militia)

1. The Ministry of Agriculture, which had approximately 1,060 employees in November 1953, had a Plant Militia unit consisting of 50 or 60 members. Two of them were women. All of the members were regular employees of the Ministry and were CP members who began working at the Ministry after the Communist coup d'état in February 1948, i.e., all of them were from the workers' cadres. The majority were administrative officials; the remainder were clerks, with the exception of two drivers.
2. The Plant Militia occupied three rooms located in the basement near the main entrance of the Ministry of Agriculture building. One room was used for arms storage, one for guards, and one room as an office for the commander. The windows of these rooms had iron shutters which prevented viewing the interior from the outside.
3. The Plant Militia unit was equipped with rifles, pistols, and sub-machine guns, make and calibre unknown, for all its members. [redacted] the unit as a whole also had two standard-type machine guns, make and calibre unknown. The members were armed with pistols when they were on alert inside the building; they were armed with submachine guns when standing guard; they carried submachine guns and sometimes rifles when marching through the town in public parades. They had first, second, and third alerts.

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[redacted] during a third alert the members had to stay in the Ministry building overnight.

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[redacted] The Plant Militia was alerted for action and to assist the public police on various occasions, such as, during visits of high-ranking foreign dignitaries in Prague, during public parades such

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as on 1 May, and in connection with events such as the currency reform.

4. Both male and female members wore the common Czechoslovak Plant Militia uniform, which consisted of conventional-type blue coveralls, an army-type belt, a black beret without insignia, a pair of short British-style leggings, and black rubber waterproof coat. There was a red band, approximately eight centimeters wide, around the left sleeve of the coveralls with black letters LM (Lidove milice - People's Militia) in block print.

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5. The unit trained in pistol target practice in the basement of the Ministry building. Once a week the unit was transported in Ministry of Agriculture trucks to a firing range in Prague-Kobylisy for training. This was originally a military firing range which was used by various Plant Militia units.

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Plant Guard

6. In addition to the Plant Militia, the Ministry of Agriculture had a Plant Guard unit (Zavodni straz - ZS). This unit consisted of six full-time male guards. They had formerly been clerks in the Ministry. Two of them were on duty at all times. During the day, they checked employee passes and visitor slips at the main entrance. Every visitor had to fill in a form at the doorkeeper's lobby. After regular working hours, they checked the offices for open windows, open doors, and lights which might have been left burning. During the night they guarded against possible fire or burglary. They also assisted in security checks performed by the Ministry's Secret Documents Control Section.
7. The members of the Ministry's Plant Guard unit wore the common uniform of the Czechoslovak Plant Guard which was dark gray in a military cut. They wore a Sam Browne belt and a visored service cap which was the same color as their uniform. Each guard was armed with a pistol, make and calibre [redacted]. They had no shoulderboards on their uniforms and [redacted] they had no rank designations. The only insignia worn by the Plant Guard members were on their service cap.

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Additional Information

8. [redacted] Premysl Vladyka,³ personal secretary to the Minister, was in charge of security in the Ministry, including Plant Militia and Plant Guard. After the Ministry's Security Section, as such, was abolished at the end of 1952, some of its activities were apparently transferred to the Secret Documents Control Section and [redacted] Vladyka was made responsible for some of the other activities. Vladyka had no official title which would connect him with security activities but [redacted] Vladyka dealt with security, such as the fact that his signature appeared on orders for supplies for Plant Militia and Plant Guard units and the fact that he was informed of serious investigations conducted regarding employees of the Ministry.

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1. [redacted]
2. [redacted] comment. Female Plant Guard members [redacted] in Prague were the same type uniform as male members except that they wore skirts.
3. [redacted]

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